

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 KINGST 00886 252121Z  
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01  
USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 /028 W

-----260728 050006 /13

R 251950Z FEB 77

FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4195  
INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN  
AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN  
AMEMBASSY NASSAU  
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINGSTON 0886

1O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR, JM, US  
SUBJECT: MINISTER BERTRAM CRITICIZES AMERICAN PRESS

1. SUMMARY. ARNOLD BERTRAM, MINISTER OF STATE FOR INFORMATION AND CULTURE, CRITICIZED THE AMERICAN PRESS DURING A MEETING WITH REPORTERS IN NEW YORK ON FEB 23. ACCORDING TO KINGSTON PRESS ACCOUNTS BETRAM ALLEGED THAT US PRESS CRITICISM OF JAMAICA'S CLOSE TIES WITH CUBA IS REALLY AIMED AT OPPOSING US EFFORTS TO NORMALIZE RELATIONS WITH CUBA. BERTRAM ALSO STATED THAT JAMAICA-US RELATIONS HAVE ALWAYS BEEN GOOD. END SUMMARY.

2. IN COMMENTING ON US PRESS CRITICISM, BERTRAM SAID, "THESE PEOPLE (THE US PRESS) ARE CRITICISING US IN ORDER TO CRITICIZE THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION." HE THEN STATED THAT THE US PRESS IS OPPOSED TO NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS BETWEEN THE US AND CUBA.

3. BERTRAM DOWNPLAYED CUBAN INFLUENCE IN JAMAICA. HE SAID THAT THE JAMAICAN POLITICAL SYSTEM IS VERY DIFFERENT FROM THE CUBAN BECAUSE JAMAICA HAS TWO  
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MAJOR POLITICAL PARTIES WHICH COMPETE DECOCRATICALLY FOR POWER. HE ADDED THAT, "NO COMMUNIST PARTY HAS EVER EMERGED IN AN ENGLISH-SPEAKING CARIBBEAN TERRITORY, WHILE COMMUNIST PARTIES HAVE EXISTED IN MANY SPANISH-SPEAKING COUNTRIES OF THE REGION." BERTRAM ASSERTED (CORRECTLY) THAT THE AMERICAN EMBASSY IS THE LARGEST IN KINGSTON, NOT THE CUBAN, AS HAS BEEN ALLEGED.

4. IN EMPHASIZING THE GOOD RELATIONS BETWEEN JAMAICA AND THE US, BERTRAM ALLUDED TO THE RECENTLY CONCLUDED AGREEMENT BETWEEN JAMAICA AND KAISER BAUXITE IN WHICH JAMAICA WILL BUY FIFTY-ONE PERCENT OF THAT COMPANY. AS ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF CLOSE TIES BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES, BERTRAM CITED THE MANY JAMAICANS WHO DO CONTRACT WORK IN THE US AND MAINTAIN CLOSE LINKS WITH THEIR HOME COUNTRY.

5. COMMENT: SPEAKING TO AN AMERICAN AUDIENCE, BERTRAM DOWNPLAYED CUBAN INFLUENCE ON JAMAICA AND EMPHASIZED GOOD RELATIONS BETWEEN JAMAICA AND THE US. HOWEVER, HIS COMMENTS ON US PRESS CRITICISM OF JAMAICA DEMONSTRATE AGAIN THE CURRENT JAMAICAN "CONSPIRACY MENTALITY." CRITICISM OF JAMAICA IS THOUGHT TO BE PART OF A LARGER PLOT DESIGNED TO DIVERT JAMAICA FROM ITS PRESENT LEFTWARD COURSE.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Subject:** MINISTER BERTRAM CRITICIZES AMERICAN PRESS  
**TAGS:** PFOR, SOPN, JM, US, (BERTRAM, ARNOLD)  
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